

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' prior art in view of Toda (5,712,540), Ciaccio (5,594,199) and Egawa (JP 10-035245). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over these references for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention are recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... said compressor-driving device lowers an output of said compressor-driving device when load of said drive-motor driving device is above a heavily loaded level.

The Official Action has cited Egawa as substantially including this feature (a minor amendment has been made for clarity). It is respectfully submitted, however, that this feature is completely lacking from Egawa.

Claim 1 recites the relation between a drive-motor driving device and an air conditioner in an electric vehicle. Typically, there is very little relationship between those two elements. Reducing an output of a compressor-driving device when the drive-motor driving device is heavily loaded allows for improvement in reliability.

By contrast, the system taught by Egawa describes conditions relating to the blower (i.e. air flow) and the refrigerant circuit (i.e. air temperature). Those conditions indicate only a relationship between a load of the blower motor and a capacity of the compressor. In other words, the efficiency of a heat exchanger increases as air flow of the blower increases. Therefore, an evaporation temperature of the heat exchanger is raised in order to reduce the amount of circulating refrigerant. In other words, output of the compressor is reduced in order to maintain air conditioning capacity.

Egawa neither discloses nor suggests Applicants' claimed feature of lowering an output of the compressor driving device when load of the drive-motor driving device is above a heavily loaded level. For this reason, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

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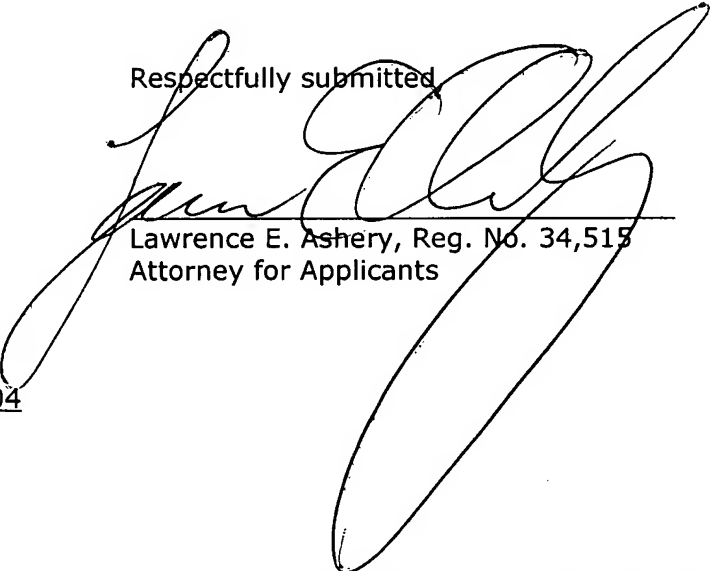
Applicants' claims 7 and 8 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claim 1.

Claims 2-6 and 10-12 have been rejected based on various references. These claims, however, include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record.

Claims 13-16 have been rejected based on a combination of various references. Each of these claims, however, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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